

GERMAN WARSHIPS ATTACK ENGLISH SEA COAST TOWNS

TRAPP DESIRES GOVERNOR'S AID

Seeks to Prevent Possible Dismissal of Cases Against Niblack and Derwin.

WRITES LETTER TO CRUCE

Says "Great Influence" Appears to Be Playing Important Part in Prosecution.

Lieutenant Governor-elect M. E. Trapp has addressed a letter to Governor Cruce asking him to use his best efforts to prevent the dismissal in the district court of Oklahoma county of the cases now pending against Leslie G. Niblack, editor of the Daily Leader of Guthrie and H. E. Derwin, also connected with the Leader, in which they are charged with having obtained warrants against the state in payment of alleged fraudulent claims.

Mr. Trapp was state auditor during the Haskell administration and the alleged irregularities referred to in the letter of the lieutenant governor-elect arose during the Trapp administration, but are alleged to have been paid after Leo Meyer became auditor.

Part of Letter.

In his letter to Governor Cruce Mr. Trapp says in part:

"I have given considerable time and attention, adding in the prosecution of these cases, and on several occasions I have discussed the same with County Attorney D. K. Pope, whose line of conversation would invariably attempt to convey the idea that his efforts were being overwhelmed by some great influence, which positively prevented him from making progress. I have taken it upon myself to ascertain if possible, the source of this 'great influence,' though the only appearance of McAdams & Haskell, Hepburn & Chappell, as attorneys of record for the defendants.

"If the influence of these attorneys is of such magnitude as to prevent the conviction of Niblack and Derwin on the evidence now at the command of the county attorney, I should have to say that they themselves are a very obnoxious element and bid fair to become a menace to society, although when one is confronted with newspaper reports of the ardent prosecution of others of less personal importance, for similar offenses, and though of much less consequence, and the very apparent lack of prosecution in the Niblack cases, one is almost constrained to believe that there is a mysterious 'great influence' at work. I am compelled to leave you to determine.

No Effort Was Made.

"Not having received any satisfaction at the hands of Mr. Pope, I thought it eminently proper to discuss the matter with Judge H. Y. Thompson, county attorney-elect, and present assistant county attorney, who has had much to do with these cases as shown by the records. I saw Mr. Thompson a few days ago, upon which occasion he very promptly advised me that it was his intention to dismiss these cases unless Pope did something with them before he went out of office."

Trapp says that after a thorough investigation he has been convinced that "No reasonable efforts have been made toward prosecuting these defendants." The letter then concludes: "I earnestly appeal to your excellency to use your utmost power, and authority, as vested in you by law, to prevent the dismissal of these cases, and bring about proper prosecution thereof, that will in the end put a stop to outrageous and unscrupulous raids on the public treasury."

Assuring you of my positive belief in your willingness to do at all times, what you believe to be in the interest of the public welfare, and hoping that this matter will impress you as of sufficient importance to require your immediate attention, I am, sincerely yours,

M. E. TRAPP.

COLONEL CORNMAN DEPARTS TO MAINE TO END SERVICE

Leavenworth, Kan., Dec. 16.—Col. Daniel Cornman, Seventh Infantry U. S. army who stands No. 1 on the list of volunteers, has departed from Leavenworth for Portland, Me., where he will remain until Feb. 8, when he will have reached the age of retirement. He probably will make his home in Boston. Colonel Cornman for several years was commandant at Fort Leavenworth.

BRYAN RESIGNATION.

Toledo O., Dec. 16.—An effort will be made by Germans of the United States to have William Jennings Bryan resign as secretary of state. It is alleged that he holds sympathy for the allied armies now in the field in Europe, especially England, because he has a son-in-law who is an officer serving in the British army.

This was the sense of many German-Americans after a mass meeting held here this afternoon at which resolutions were adopted approving of the policy of neutrality of President Wilson, but denouncing the alleged shipment of arms and ammunition from the United States to the allied armies.

More than 3,500 Germans crowded into Memorial Hall at the meeting held under the auspices of the German-American societies of Toledo Prof. J. Vollmer, of Union Seminary, Dayton, O., was the principal speaker.

PLAN CHANGES FOR ELECTION

Attempt to Be Made at Coming Legislative Session to Alter Primary System.

An attempt will be made in the coming legislature to abolish the present primary election system altogether and substitute a preferential primary, or preferential election, planned much after the system adopted by the Republicans in the recent campaign. Whether the proposition as now planned will be carried through is another question, but it is believed the members of the legislature will be favorable to any change from the present system, which has been considered by many Democrats as little better than no system at all.

Start in Senate.

It is understood that the first action along the line of abolishing or repealing the present primary election law will be started in the senate in the shape of a resolution which will signify that the sentiment of the senate is behind such a move. If this is successful a bill will follow later providing for the necessary repeal and it is possible then a new measure will be drawn by a senate and house joint committee.

It has cost the state over \$1,000,000 to hold election since statehood, it is estimated. More than two-thirds of this cost could be eliminated with the abolishment of the primary election and the substitution of a preferential system. In the latter candidates themselves would stand much of the expense not counting in the merits of the proposition.

Republicans Favor Plan.

It is known that Republicans favor the preferential plan, because they tried it and found it satisfactory, so there will be no objection from that source. Following the primary this year many Democrats expressed dissatisfaction with the primary system, and the movement began then for a change in the laws. Whether there will be any further changes in the election laws is not known now.

SELF DENIAL DAY ADDS BIG SUM TO CHARITY FUND

Baltimore, Dec. 15.—Self-denial yesterday was observed by thousands of Baltimoreans who denied themselves luxuries and in many instances necessities in order to contribute to the community relief fund.

THE WEATHER

Partly cloudy and continued cold night and Thursday.

7 a. m. 17
8 a. m. 16
9 a. m. 16
10 a. m. 16
11 a. m. 16
12 noon 16
1 p. m. 16
2 p. m. 16
3 p. m. 16
4 p. m. 16
5 p. m. 16
6 p. m. 16
7 p. m. 16
8 p. m. 16
9 p. m. 16
10 p. m. 16
11 p. m. 16
12 m. 16
High barometric pressure persists over the entire United States and generally fair and decidedly cold weather has prevailed in all sections of the country during the past twenty-four hours. Freezing weather reaches nearly to the Gulf coast this morning and zero temperatures are reported in the upper Lake region, Minnesota valley, northern Plains States and northern Rocky Mountains. It is 20 degrees below zero in parts of Montana, Wyoming and North Dakota, the lowest recorded this season. Light snow has fallen in the lower Lake region and St. Lawrence valley. Very light snow flurries are reported in the Texas Panhandle and parts of Kansas and Missouri.

REALLY THE MOST FUTILE THING IN THE WORLD.



WHOLESALE EXECUTIONS RID MEXICO OF CAPTIVES

Washington, Dec. 16.—Between 100 and 150 Mexicans, many of them once prominent officials, have been secretly executed in Mexico City within the last few days, according to an official report which reached the United States government today from one of its agents there.

Just who ordered the executions has not been disclosed nor are any of the names of those put to death known.

Except for the executions, which are understood according to the report to be happening daily, conditions in the city itself are quiet and provisional President Gutierrez, with the allied Villa and Zapata forces is maintaining order. No foreigners have been injured or intimidated and business conditions are described as improving to the capital. As the American government has taken the position that it will not interfere in the disputes among the Mexicans themselves, it was not believed here that there would be any remonstrance from Washington about the wholesale executions of political prisoners unless foreigners are annoyed.

ASK RE-HEARING IN LEVY CASE

Ozage and Oklahoma Company Appeal to Supreme Court Against County.

A petition for re-hearing in the case of the Ozage and Oklahoma company against Ret Millard, treasurer of Ozage county and others, was filed in the state supreme court this morning by Attorneys Ames, Chambers, Love and Richardson.

The Ozage and Oklahoma company declares that the opinion of the supreme court of November 14, 1914, which held that Tax Perpet C. H. Pittman and local taxing authorities of Ozage county had full authority to place property of the company on the tax rolls, which they had alleged had escaped taxation for several years back, was based on an incorrect interpretation of the meaning of section 1 of article 10 of the constitution.

Attorneys for the Ozage and Oklahoma company contend that the foregoing section vests in the state board of equalization sole power to assess the property of railroads and other public service corporations and that the language of the section conferring this authority on the state board bars any other taxing authorities from assessing property of such corporations. The decision, which the Ozage and Oklahoma company would have set aside, upheld the tax forest law and held that local taxing authorities have the right to assess property that has escaped even though it belongs to a public service corporation.

NORTH ALBANIAN TRIBES DECLARE WAR ON SERBIA

Amsterdam, Dec. 16.—A dispatch from Constantinople says the tribes of northern Albania have declared war on Serbia.

TEUTONS AND ALLIES BOTH CLAIM VICTORIES

Paris, Dec. 16.—According to an official communication the west end of Belgium has been violently bombarded by the British fleet and the Belgium army has repulsed a counter-attack on St. Georges and occupied farms on the left bank of the Yser. The allied troops have gained ground in the direction of Klein, Zillebeke and St. Kloi.

The allies gained a distinct advantage in the Arras and Alsace regions and in the Woeyre and Alsace repulsed several attacks.

In Serbia the number of prisoners of Austro-Hungarians left in the hands of the Serbians since the beginning of war, is placed at 60,000.

GERMANS FAIL SAY RUSSIANS TWO SELECTIONS FOR STATE JOBS

Petrograd Reports That Violent Teuton Attacks in Many Quarters Have Been Repulsed With Losses.

Petrograd, Dec. 16.—The Army messenger in a communication from the front says: "On the front from Lwow to flow, violent German attacks failed with great losses to them. Between the twelfth and fourteenth the enemy south of Crowsow attempted to oppose our offensive by strengthening their positions. On the fifteenth the enemy demolished in large numbers and attempted to descend the north slopes of the Carpathians. After strong resistance we repulsed them."

SERBIA SOIL CLEARED OF AUSTRIANS SAYS STAFF

London, Dec. 16.—King Peter and Crown Prince Alexander and Prince George have entered Belgrade at the head of the victorious Serbian army according to a Reuters' dispatch from Nish. Not a single Austrian, the statement by the Serbian general staff says remains on Austrian soil.

Teuton Fleet Makes Sudden Dash Across Water, Bombards Scarborough and Hartlepool Inflicting Heavy Damages and Causing Inhabitants to Flee Inland in Panic--Some Deaths Reported--Great Naval Battle Developing.

London, Dec. 16.—The German fleet made a sudden dash into the North Sea this morning engaged the British flotillas and shelled Scarborough and Hartlepool on the English coast, causing heavy damage and causing many inhabitants to flee in panic.

Reports here said the panic seized the residents of Hartlepool and Scarborough to such an extent they abandoned their homes and fled inland. Admiralty news of the raid was first announced at 11:30 a. m., and threw London into the greatest excitement since the outbreak of the war. Scarborough is a fashionable resort two hundred miles north of London, with a population of 40,000. Hartlepool is forty miles northwest of Scarborough, and has a population of 90,000. It could not be ascertained at first whether the German attack was preparatory to an invasion or whether its purpose was to engage the British fleet in general action.

Neither Scarborough nor Hartlepool is fortified.

Great excitement prevailed in Lloyd's underwriting room. Insurance rates, so far as the North Sea are concerned were practically suspended.

One report here from Hull was that nine persons were killed at Hartlepool.

The New Castle Evening Chronicle places the number of German cruisers which bombarded Hartlepool at three. It says these cruisers were attacked almost immediately by four British destroyers. Several entire rows of houses at Hartlepool were destroyed and the gas works were seriously damaged. It is believed several persons were killed or wounded, the newspaper says.

The Yorkshire Evening News reports two German cruisers were sunk in today's engagement and the British flotilla damaged.

A dispatch from Hartlepool says the German shells tore great craters in the city streets.

The estimate that nine persons were killed at Hartlepool is believed here to be greatly exaggerated.

The Germans dropped thirty shells into Whitby. Sound of the bombardment was heard twenty miles inland.

Hull, Eng., Dec. 16.—The bombardment of Hartlepool lasted twenty-five minutes. Hostile vessels are estimated to number from two to six. None were clearly discernible because of the fog. Forts on the river Tees replied to the fire. Pieces of shell were found all over Hartlepool. One hit a gas tank, setting it afire. The damage is considerable.

It is reported here that word had been received that an attack by Germans was contemplated and that consequently the authorities were in readiness to meet it. Coast defenses had been thoroughly prepared and all units of infantry and artillery were at their stations and in trenches.

Up to 5 o'clock this afternoon no reliable estimates of casualties were available.

Another eye witness from Scarborough said a large amount of debris littered the square near the railway station. Roofs of houses were torn away, windows broken and holes bored entirely through some houses. Several shells were fired at the wireless station.

James Harvey Scott, of Scarborough, who arrived here after the bombardment of the seaside resort, said:

"I could not believe it was a real attack; I thought battleships were practicing; then I saw a shell fall on the roof of a house, which caught fire. 'Rainford Hotel, right in the center of the town was struck. As I walked to the station, shells were bursting overhead and at the station shells fell into the yard."

Scarborough, Eng., Dec. 16.—Four German cruisers bombarded Scarborough this morning, damaging several buildings with shells and throwing the populace into the greatest excitement. When the shells began falling crowds rushed to the station to take trains to Hull. The roof of St. Martin's church was struck and one woman known to have been killed. Several other buildings were damaged. The cruisers arrived under cover of a fog. One estimate was that the cruisers fired about fifty shells.

Just before daylight broke, a vessel of cruiser type was observed off Scarborough. For half an hour it threw shell after shell into the town.

A woman behind a counter in a shop was killed instantly and her husband wounded. The remains of the shop tumbled down about them.

The objective of the German gunners apparently was the town hall, which was damaged slightly. Other property suffered severely. The streets were filled with wreckage.

During the bombardment the vessel steamed slowly past the town and finally disappeared in the haze. After she had been lost from sight the sound of her guns was heard for some time.

Hartlepool, Eng., Dec. 16.—The residents here were awakened this morning by gun firing. Great crowds rushed to the beach. Shells from German ships then began dropping into the city, whereupon the crowd stampeded to shelter.

Redcar, Eng., Dec. 16.—Heavy firing was heard off the coast shortly after eight this morning. The forms of three cruisers was discerned in the haze and the flash of artillery was seen. Crowds sought the water front, but were driven back by soldiers. The ships appeared to be attacking the forts at Tees Bay. The ramming lasted half an hour.

London, Dec. 16.—An official press bureau announcement this morning says:

"German movements in the North Sea are taking place this morning. Scarborough and Hartlepool have been shelled and our flotillas have been engaged at various points. The situation is developing.

"Reports were current here that two German cruisers have been sunk in the North Sea."

Another official bureau announcement made this afternoon said:

"Fortress commander at West Hartlepool reports that German war vessels engaged that fortress between eight and nine o'clock. The enemy was driven off. Small German war vessels opened fire on Scarborough and Whitby."

Whitby, Eng., Dec. 16.—Two German cruisers bombarded Whitby between nine and ten o'clock this morning. The cruisers appeared to be about three miles off shore. Several persons were injured and a number of buildings, including the historical abbey here, were damaged.

One person was reported killed. The cruisers after bombarding disappeared in a northerly direction.

GRANDMOTHER ARRESTED WILL RETURN FOR TRIAL

Atlanta, Dec. 16.—Mrs. Nana V. Barnhardt, arrested here at the instance of the Baltimore authorities on the charge of kidnapping her seven-year-old granddaughter, Leona Rust, from a relative in the Maryland city, has agreed to return here for court action without further opposition to a requisition issued by Governor Goldsborough. Mrs. Barnhardt will take the child with her.

BANISHMENT OF NOBLE CAUSES GREAT EXCITEMENT

Copenhagen, Via Berlin, The Hague and London, Dec. 16.—Baron Carl von Manteuffel, who owns a fine estate at Kerdangen near Libau, and who is the most prominent German noble in the Russian Baltic provinces, has been banished by the military chief of his district to Dvinsk near Tomsk, Siberia. The excitement of the Baltic nobility because of this incident is reported to be great.

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